On a beautiful afternoon on Sunday, August 2nd, the Oregon Nikkei Endowment was proud to celebrate the 25th Anniversary of its Japanese American Historical Plaza and Bill of Rights Memorial in Tom McCall Waterfront Park. Since 1990, the Plaza has stood as a permanent memorial to the lives of Oregon Nikkei and their determined pursuit of liberty, equality, and justice as American citizens.

At this landmark event, O.N.E. was able to honor all those who were instrumental in creating and maintaining the Japanese American Historical Plaza. Over 300 attendees were on hand to hear keynote speaker, actor, and activist George Takei, draw from his family’s experience of being incarcerated. The Master of Ceremonies was local KOIN 6 News Anchor Ken Boddie and music was provided by the Minidoka Swing Band.

After an invocation made by Imam Muhammad Najieb, other guest speakers included Wajdi Said of the Muslim Educational Trust, U.S. Attorney Billy J. Williams, Sho Dozono, and Anne Naito-Campbell. Portland Commissioner Nick Fish presented a city proclamation recognizing the anniversary of the Plaza while Former Portland Mayor Bud Clark provided moving reflections.

Following the event, almost 300 guests joined us on a celebratory cruise down the Willamette River on the Portland Spirit. With George Takai onboard, we all danced the evening away with music provided by Thomas Lauderdale of Pink Martini.

A special thanks goes out to all those that have made this celebration possible, including our sponsors: The Boeing Company, Holst Architecture, Portland JACL/Unite People, Portland Japanese Garden, Saito Family, Nathan Sasaki/Apex Real Estate Partners, Perkins Coie, The Benson Hotel, and Uwajimaya. Thanks to those that hosted a community table and all of our individual donors.
On Saturday, October 17th, we held another wonderful Family Day at the Oregon Nikkei Legacy Center. Kids and the young-at-heart were able to join in the fun as Lori Tsugawa Whaley performed Japanese folk tales with puppets. For the older crowd that day, Lori shared insights from her latest inspirational and historical book *The Courage of a Samurai: Seven Sword-Sharp Principle for Success*.

Be sure to join us for our next Family Day at the Oregon Nikkei Legacy Center on Sunday, January 10, 2016. The day will feature poet and author Lawrence "Larry" Matsuda reading from his latest works which includes the *cool graphic novel Fighting for America: Nisei Soldiers*.

Family Day
@ the Oregon Nikkei Legacy Center

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We Welcome a New Education Manager

Cynthia Basye joined the Oregon Nikkei Endowment staff in October. Cynthia’s teaching career began in Albuquerque, NM. She taught in early childhood centers, kindergarten through fifth grade classrooms, and finally in teacher education programs at the University of New Mexico (UNM). While working at UNM, she was invited to join the New Mexico team of the Japanese American National Museum’s Enduring Communities Project. The team developed curriculum about the Japanese American experience in New Mexico during World War II. After moving to Oregon in 2007, Cynthia came to the Oregon Nikkei Legacy Center archives to learn more about the Issei men who were interned at the Department of Justice Camp in Santa Fe, NM. She eventually began volunteering at the Oregon Nikkei Legacy Center, helping with activities and working with student groups. In the spring of 2015 she joined the O.N.E. board. She is excited to now be a part of the staff.

As Education Manager, Cynthia is looking forward to working with students, teachers, and the O.N.E. staff and volunteers. She is committed to helping students make connections and learn a fuller history of Portland and the Northwest. She continues to appreciate the multiple ways in which the Oregon Nikkei Endowment addresses its mission. The history and culture of Japanese Americans are preserved and honored, and a bridge is built to advocacy and protection of civil rights for all Americans.
Continuing an exciting year, this fall has brought an all-new traveling exhibit from the San Francisco Bay Area featuring historic images taken in 1942 by War Relocation Authority staff photographers including Dorothea Lange juxtaposed with contemporary images by artist and photojournalist Paul Kitagaki Jr. Spanning seven decades, Gambatte! Legacy of an Enduring Spirit chronicles multi-generations of Japanese Americans united by the defining experience of their incarceration during World War II. A visual exploration of the Japanese concept of gambatte, together these past and present images add light to a dark chapter of U.S. history and speak with the authenticity of a life lived.

At the opening reception for this groundbreaking exhibit, we welcomed Paul Kitagaki Jr. and his family to the Legacy Center. Joining Paul were presidents, treasurers, and key board members of the Tashfuran Assembly Center Memorial Committee and the Contra Costa Japanese American Citizens League. Our special guests from California included Doug Yamamoto and his wife Betty, Esther Takeuchi, Richard Sekiguchi, Richard Oba, and Sidney Pucek. All of these individuals and their organizations were critical to sharing this stunning exhibit with our greater community here in Portland. Additional support was provided through the National Park Service’s Japanese American Confinement Sites grant program.

Be sure to visit the Legacy Center before Gambatte! closes on January 17, 2016. And mark your calendars for our next blockbuster, the nationally traveling exhibit Uprooted: Japanese American Farm Labor Camps during World War II which will be on view from February 11 through June 19, 2016.

—Todd Mayberry
Join us for a free and open to the public presentation at the Oregon Buddhist Temple. Oregon Nikkei Legacy Center volunteers Taylor Ishida and Weston Nakamura-Koyama will share the moving stories they uncovered from correspondence written by and sent to two Japanese Americans incarcerated during World War II. Come trace one young girl’s journey from the Portland Assembly Center to Minidoka through stirring letters written to classmates back home at Portland’s Parkrose High School. Hear how, shortly after the bombing of Pearl Harbor, an innocent dentist in Portland’s Japantown was arrested by the FBI and transferred to various Department of Justice prisons across the United States.

Learn about the extraordinary significance these letters hold. Discover how artifacts can give voice to family heartbreak and loss, speak to the power of friendships, and inspire a new generation to carry them on.

This program is presented in partnership with the Oregon Buddhist Archives and Densho: The Japanese American Legacy Project.

**Collections Up Close: Letters from Beyond the Fence**
Sunday, December 6, 3:30–5:00 PM
Oregon Buddhist Temple
3720 SE 34th Avenue, Portland, OR 97202

NIHONMACHI: THE PLACE TO BE Premiers in Portland!

On November 9th, the Oregon Nikkei Endowment was proud to present the Grateful Crane Ensemble’s musical production of *Nihonmachi: The Place to Be*. Having first debuted in Los Angeles, the show made its Portland premiere at the Portland Center Stage’s Gerding Theater at the Armory. Through the use of nostalgic and classical songs, the play focuses on a family and their Japantown mochi (Japanese sweet cake) shop through three generations of trials and triumphs. An additional special matinee performance for school groups, including free tickets for underserved youth, introduced this history to our younger generation.

Our heartfelt thanks goes out to all those that made the event possible including the following sponsors:

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- & many others!

Additional support was provided, in part, by the Regional Arts & Culture Council and the Oregon Cultural Trust.
THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS  MAY 16, 2015 TO OCTOBER 31, 2015

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Please help us correct any errors by calling 503.224.1458.
Support the Oregon Nikkei Endowment and enjoy traditional Japanese New Year’s foods (osechi ryori) prepared by Nikkei community cooks, displayed in a three-tiered lacquer box (jubako). Drop off your jubako marked with your name at the Oregon Nikkei Legacy Center, 121 NW 2nd Avenue, Portland.

The traditional foods will include: nishime, kimpira gobo, kazunoko, makizushi, sekihan, and more…

COST:
$130 include the jubako box & foods
Or $100 if you provide your own jubako box. ($60 is tax deductible)

DEADLINE TO ORDER:
Friday, December 18, 2015

MORE INFORMATION:
503-224-1458 or info@oregonnikkei.org

MAIL FORM TO:
Oregon Nikkei Endowment,
121 NW 2nd Avenue, Portland,
OR 97209

OR ORDER ONLINE:
www.oregonnikkei.org

ORDER PICK-UP:
Thursday, December 31, 2015,
from 2:30 to 3:30 PM, at the
Oregon Buddhist Temple
3720 SE 34th Ave, Portland

Omiyage returns!

Shop and support Oregon Nikkei Endowment at our holiday pop-up shop, Omiyage, from November 10th to December 24th.

Oregon Nikkei Endowment is excited to participate again in the Portland Business Alliance and Portland Development Commission’s PDX Pop-Up Shop project. The project turns Portland’s vacant retail spaces into temporary shops that showcase local talent and encourage downtown shoppers to seek out unique gift offerings during the holiday season.

Celebrate the tradition of gift giving and choose from Asian inspired gifts and crafts created by local artisan, designers and authors. Omiyage will feature unique jewelry, fashion and home accessories, cards, origami ornaments, art objects, Anime inspired merchandise, books by local authors and a selection of curated vintage items from our Cherry Blossom Bazaar.

This year’s store is conveniently located on the MAX light rail and bus transit mall at 341 NW 5th Avenue. Proceeds from Omiyage sales will support local vendors and our programs, exhibits and the mission of Oregon Nikkei Endowment. Hope to see you there!

Hours: 11:00am-6pm Wednesday-Friday
Noon-5:00pm Saturday and Sunday
and my son Randy met in college and they agreed to raise their son to be fluent in both languages. Well, the last time he was here I thought I would test him by introducing him to my neighbor, Fude Kagawa. She thought his Japanese was excellent. Then she said, “You know, when I was your age I was interned.” Coby thought that was great – so young and already a job as an “intern.” It was at this point that Fude explained the grim reality of Minidoka and the conversation became serious.

That was a turning point for me. Fude suggested that I visit the Oregon Nikkei Legacy Center and discover the history of Japanese Americans in concentration camps during World War II. I took her advice and found a rich resource. I met Todd Mayberry, the director of collections and exhibits, and explained that I was a retired professor interested in doing research on the teachers who taught at Hunt High School. Perhaps I could write something that would explain the Minidoka concentration camp to kids like Coby so that they would understand what it was like to attend school behind barbed wire.

With the help of the ONLC staff and volunteers, I have found two teachers who made a big difference at Hunt High School. Both of them are now deceased, but I hope to tell their unique story. At ONLC, I met Shiuko Sakai who actually worked with one of the teachers I’m researching. She gave me valuable information for follow-up phone interviews with faculty children who lived and went to school in the camp. The story of the teachers who came and taught democracy behind barbed wire should be remembered and passed on to future generations.

**Dr. Eugene H. Freund** is a retired professor emeritus from the University of Nebraska Omaha’s Department of Education Sociology/Anthropology. Over the past couple of months, Dr. Freund, or “Gene” as he asked us to call him, has been conducting extensive research utilizing the Oregon Nikkei Legacy Center library and archives. We asked to Gene to share a little bit about his work and what brought him to the Legacy Center.

To fourteen-year-old Coby Freund of West Des Moines, Iowa, I am just Grandpa Gene and he thinks I’m “awesome!” Part of his pride in me is that for years we have been travel buddies, exploring this country while riding Amtrak. My youngest grandchild and I have traveled thousands of miles together on the California Zephyr and the Coast Starlight. We have seen the Rockies, the Columbia River Gorge, and Glacier National Park while eating lunch in the dining car. But his favorite destination is visiting me in Portland Oregon.

My grandson is half Japanese. His mom Emiko, who is from Japan,
MATSUTAKE!
A great group of current and new Friends of O.N.E. gathered matsutake mushrooms on the Oregon Coast. Thanks to the rainy weather, this year’s harvest was abundant!

THANK YOU
Valerie, Amy, Hank, Rick, Joe, and Marty for organizing this event!

MEMORIAL & TRIBUTE GIFTS
MAY 16, 2015 TO OCTOBER 31, 2015
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In honor of Dr. Ron Naito
David J. Pollock

In honor of Aya & Ed Fujii’s 65th wedding anniversary, Aya Fujii’s 80th birthday, Ben & Joyce Nakamura’s 50th wedding anniversary and Terrie Natsuhara’s 85th birthday

In honor of Miyoko Takushi
Yuki Johnston

In honor of Toshikatsu Naguwa
Brandon Higa
Before moving to Portland, James Rodgers received his M.A. in Museum Studies from New York University in 2013 and had several years of experience working in the cultural sector. James had previously volunteered at the American Museum of Natural History in New York, NY, and the Morikami Museum and Japanese Gardens in Boca Raton, FL. His skill sets and professional training have been critical to a variety of exhibits, collections projects, and special programs here at the Oregon Nikkei Legacy Center.

You’ve been a well-loved volunteer here at the Oregon Nikkei Legacy Center since you first came through our doors in October, 2013. What inspired you to become involved?

I’ve been drawn to the stories and experiences of the internees at the American camps since I first heard about them years ago. There is a strength and resilience there that I find very admirable - not only in their cultural identity as Japanese, but also in their national identities as Americans. They fought very hard for what they believed in and were ultimately rewarded for their diligence and sacrifices.

Tell us a bit about yourself and the volunteer work you’ve been doing here.

I lived in Japan for three years and it taught me so much about Japanese history and culture and it really instilled in me a desire to further U.S./Japan relations. Currently, I help Todd Mayberry, director of collections and exhibits, with installing/de-installing exhibits, research, and cataloging of the museum’s vast and ever-growing collections. Sometimes I get chills when I look at the items or ephemera stored away in their boxes. There is so much history and life within the walls of the museum.

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

That will have to be a toss-up between the dinner cruise with George Takei and the opening of the Yosegaki Hinomaru exhibit. So many stories left untold.

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

Look at your work and educational experiences and ask how they can best be used to help the museum. It takes individuals of all backgrounds and talents.

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 that you can volunteer.

Thank You!

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WELCOME TO NEW AND RENEWING FRIENDS OF OREGON NIKKEI ENDOWMENT  
May 16, 2015 to October 31, 2015

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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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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On May 16, we were thrilled to host a party at the Oregon Nikkei Legacy Center for the release of Dr. Toshio Inahara’s autobiography A Nisei, Right Place, Right Time. The day featured a book signing and riveting talk by the esteemed author who, among many other prominent accomplishments, was the first vascular surgeon in Oregon.