



# A Day of Remembrance

327 NW Couch St.  
Portland, ORE 97209  
(503) 223-2454

press contact: Frank Abe

## NATIONAL EVENTS

On February 19, 1942, President Franklin D. Roosevelt issued Executive Order 9066. The order forced Japanese Americans to give up their homes, businesses and friends for a life in American concentration camps. Japanese Americans in Los Angeles, Portland, San Francisco and Seattle will use the thirty seventh anniversary of E.O. 9066 to remember the camps and years of hardship that order brought into being. They call it A DAY OF REMEMBRANCE.

Feb. 17, Saturday: PORTLAND--Car caravans from Seattle and Eugene will gather with Portland residents to dedicate a plaque at what was once the "Portland Assembly Center" and home to 3,676 Japanese Americans.

Feb. 19, Monday: SAN FRANCISCO--Car caravans from San Francisco, Palo Alto, and East Bay will leave at 11:00 am for a program at noon at what was once the "Tanforan Assembly Center" and home for 7,673 Japanese Americans. Speakers on the program include Rev. Nick Iyoya; master of ceremonies Noriko Bridges; Ernest Iiyama, formerly of the Tanforan Council; Minoru Yasui, who challenged the constitutionality of the military curfew in the U.S. Supreme Court; Emily Light, former teacher at Topaz concentration camp; Rev. Sanada, Buddhist minister at Tanforan; poet Janice Mirikitani; John Tateishi, chair, National Redress Committee; and others.

FOR INFORMATION: GEORGE KONDO, (415) 921-5225  
CAROLE HAYASHINO, (415) 922-2144

LOS ANGELES--Central Avenue, north of S. First St., will be blocked off at 1:00 pm. This street program will recall the combined experiences of 23,719 Japanese Americans detained at the Santa Anita and Pomona Assembly Centers. Speakers on the program include Shinsei Tsuneishi, Issei interned at Pomona and Heart Mountain concentration camps; Betty Kozasa, Nisei interned at Santa Anita and Jerome, Ark. concentration camps; Warren Furutani, Sansei; East/West Players; and a demonstration of odori folk dance in the street.

FOR INFORMATION: LORI HIGA, (213) 930-1576





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press contact: Frank Abe  
or Joyce Hata Cawthorne

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Do not use after: Feb. 14, 1979

## GOVERNOR AND MAYOR SUPPORT NIKKEI

The State of Oregon and the City of Portland will join other West Coast cities and states in welcoming Japanese America home from their wrongful wartime incarceration.

Mayor Neil Goldschmidt, City of Portland, and the Portland City Council are scheduled to enact a joint resolution declaring a "Day of Remembrance." They will meet on Feb. 7, 2:00 pm, in City Council chambers.

Governor Victor Atiyeh is scheduled to issue a proclamation declaring a state-wide "Day of Remembrance." He will sign the document a week later, on Feb. 14, between 12:30 and 1:30 pm, at the State Capitol.

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**To all persons of JAPANESE ancestry and FRIENDS**

**The Memory of  
One Hundred Twenty Thousand Three Hundred and Thirteen  
Issei, Nisei, Sansei and others of Japanese ancestry**

**request the pleasure of your company  
for**

# **A DAY OF REMEMBRANCE**

**Remember the concentration camps  
stand for redress with your family**

**Saturday, February 17, 1979**

**Come with your family to what was once  
the "Portland Assembly Center" and  
home to 3600 Japanese Americans**

**Enter the Multnomah County Exposition Center for  
registration from 12:30 to 1:45 PM**

**PROGRAM STARTS AT 2 PM**

**Join the plaque dedication,  
remember the years of hardship Japanese  
America endured to make the United States  
home for their parents, themselves, their children,  
and all the Nikkei generations to come.**

**COME AS YOU ARE. COME WITH YOUR FAMILY.**

**BRING POTLUCK FOR DINNER WITH THE PEOPLE WHO WENT TO CAMP.  
IF YOU ARE NOT ABLE TO BRING POTLUCK, PLEASE REGISTER AT THE  
NUMBER LISTED BELOW BY FEB. 14TH, SO THAT ADEQUATE PROVISIONS  
WILL BE PROVIDED.**

**Partial list of participants, speakers, and entertainers:**

**Mayor Neil Goldschmitt, Rev. Waichi Oyanagi, Judge Robert Thornton, Dr. George Hara, Dr. Tosh Kuge,  
Lawson Inada, Fujinamikai, Pat Okama, Carla Takasumi, Harue Ninomiya, Min Yasui, Masuji Ureta,  
Nola Sugai Bogle and others.**

**Partial list of sponsors:**

**JACL CHAPTERS; PORTLAND, GRESHAM-TROUTDALE, HOOD RIVER, PUYALLUP, SEATTLE, PAC. NW DISTRICT  
COUNCIL, JACL NAT'L REDRESS COMMITTEE, ORE. NISEI VETS, ORE. BUDDHIST CHURCH, NIKKEI JINKAI,  
UNIV. of ORE. ASIAN AMERICAN STUDENT UNION, EUGENE ASIAN AMERICAN CULTURAL CENTER**

**For information and dinner registration:**

**KIMI TAMBARA 223-2454 9-3 PM**





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Joyce Hata Cawthorne

The memory of 120,313 persons of Japanese ancestry request the pleasure of your company for A Day of Remembrance, Saturday, Feb. 17, 1979, 12:30 pm to 6:00 pm, at the Multnomah County Exposition Center, West Hall. This family gathering recalls Japanese America's 3 1/2 years in American concentration camps.

Three generations of Japanese Americans and friends will gather to dedicate a plaque on that site once known as the "Portland Assembly Center" and home to 3,676 local Nikkei forcibly detained by U.S. government. February 19th is the 37th anniversary of Executive Order 9066, signed by President Roosevelt in 1942, which authorized camps such as that at the old Pacific-International Livestock Pavillion.

The two o'clock program of speakers and entertainment shares the experiences of local Nikkei. A community reunion potluck dinner follows at five o'clock. An exhibition of Portland Assembly Center photographs and a display of artwork and other objects handcrafted in camp will be offered.

Car caravans from Eugene and Seattle will make the journey back to the assembly center early that morning for the program registration at 12:30.

Bring a potluck dinner. If not, register for dinner before Feb. 14.

Sponsored by Portland Nikkeijinkai, Oregon Nisei Vets, JACL chapters of Portland, Gresham-Troutdale, Oregon Buddhist Church, and others.

Contact for further information and dinner registration:

Nikkeijinkai/JACL office 223-2454.

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"A DAY OF REMEMBRANCE"  
FACT SHEET ON THE CONSTITUTION & EVACUATION

"No person shall be deprived of life, liberty, or property without due process of law. The accused shall enjoy the right to a speedy and public trial by an impartial jury and to be informed of the nature and cause of the accusation." These protections are guaranteed in the 5th and 6th Amendments to the Constitution.

However, during 1942-46, some 77,000 American citizens of Japanese ancestry and 43,000 Japanese nationals, most of whom were permanent U.S. residents, were summarily deprived of liberty and property without criminal charges, and without trial of any kind. Several persons were also violently deprived of life. All persons of Japanese ancestry on the West Coast were expelled from their homes and confined in inland detention camps. The sole basis for these actions was ancestry--citizenship, age, loyalty, or innocence of wrongdoing did not matter. Japanese Americans were the only ones singled out for mass incarceration.

This episode was one of the worst blows to constitutional liberties that the American people have ever sustained. Many Americans find it difficult to understand how such a massive injustice could have occurred in a democratic nation.. The mass expulsion and incarceration of American citizens did happen here in the United States.

President Gerald R. Ford rescinded the Executive Order 9066 on February 19, 1976--exactly 34 years after its promulgation authorizing civilian exclusion--and stated: "An honest reckoning must include a recognition of our national mistakes as well as our national achievements.. Learning from our mistakes is not pleasant, but as a great philosopher once admonished, we must do so if we want to avoid repeating them."

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(excerpted from The Japanese American Incarceration, JACL, June 1978)



"A DAY OF REMEMBRANCE" / February 17, 1979  
TENTATIVE PROGRAM

12:30 am - 1:45 pm

Assemble at West Hall, Multnomah County Exposition  
Center

Register each person arriving by car, car caravan,  
and bus

Provide WCCA family number tags

2:00 pm

Opening Ceremonies

bugle call: Jim Takeshima

presenting the colors: Oregon Nisei Vets

"The Star-Spangled Banner": Nola Sugai Bogle

Invocation: Rev. Waichi Oyanagi/Woodlawn United  
Methodist

Master of Ceremonies: Rowe Sumida

Speakers: Harue Akiyama

Masaki Kinoshita

Mayor Neil Goldschmidt, City of Portland

Min Yasui

Harue Ninomiya

Dr. George S. Hara

Judge Robert Thornton, Oregon State Court  
of Appeals

Plaque Dedication: Dr. Toshi Kuge

Poem: Lawson Fusao Inada, Southern Oregon State  
College

3:45 pm - 4:00 pm

Break Time

Optional activities: Slide show, photo exhibit,  
camp art & handcrafts exhibit, "Issei Appreciation"  
film

4:00 pm - 5:00 pm

Entertainment: Fujinamikai, Karla Takasumi, Pat Hokama,  
David Fujii

5:00 pm - 6:00 pm

Community Reunion Potluck Dinner



"A DAY OF REMEMBRANCE" / February 17, 1979  
BIOGRAPHIES OF PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS

ROWE SUMIDA is master of ceremonies for the two o'clock program. He ran a grocery business with his brother which they lost in the Evacuation. He was chief mess steward at the Portland and Minidoka, Idaho, concentration camps. He volunteered for the all-Nisei 442nd Regimental Combat Team (subject of the motion picture "Go For Broke") and saw action in the first contingent of Nisei to land in Italy. He fought through the entire European campaign. He is a chartered life underwriter and past board member of the Portland Life Underwriters. "With four boys I recognize the problems we've had in the past and try to prevent the same problems for the boys. We have to present our side of the evacuation story, so more people will know and understand our position."

NOLA SUGAI BOGLE was raised in Salem, Oregon. Her father was an athlete and professional wrestler. She was interned at the age of three at the Portland and Minidoka concentration camps. She is a professional singer who has performed at clubs in Lake Tahoe. She is the wife of television newscaster Dick Bogle.

REVEREND WAICHI OYANAGI will deliver the invocation. He is an Issei, first-generation Japanese American, born in 1919. He was evacuated from Tacoma, Wash., to the Pinedale and Tule Lake concentration camps. "My experience is that of an 'enemy alien,' by exclusionary law ineligible for citizenship, going through the experience of internment." He is pastor of Woodlawn United Methodist Church and a doctoral candidate at San Francisco Theological Seminary.

HARUE AKIYAMA is an Issei. She and her husband owned and operated two "R. Kohara Co." stores in downtown Portland before the war. They imported Japanese curios. After Dec. 7, 1941, the FBI held them under 24-hour guard in their store. "I go in tears when I start talking about it. It was very sad." She is president of Portland's Nikkei Fujinkai. She will speak in Japanese with periodic translation.

MASAKI KINOSHITA is an Issei, born 82 years ago. Regardless of his age, he is active in running his nursery business in Northeast Portland. He worked on the fire department at the Portland Assembly Center, before transfer to the camp at Minidoka. He is the father of four girls. "They gave me one tiny room with Army cots for my family of six." He will speak in Japanese with periodic translation.



NEIL GOLDSCHMIDT is Mayor of the City of Portland. He was born in Eugene, Ore., and attended the University of Oregon and Boalt Law School. He worked with Charles Evers on Mississippi voter registration in 1964. He is married and the father of two children.

MIN YASUI is the son of a Hood River Issei grower who pioneered strawberry and asparagus cultivation there. Min was a Portland lawyer at the time of evacuation. He challenged the suspension of Japanese America's constitutional rights. He defied the military curfew and spent eight months in solitary confinement at Multnomah County Jail before transfer to the Minidoka, Idaho, concentration camps. His case went to the U.S. Supreme Court. "I'm glad I did it. I'm damn proud of it. By law, if you are hurt, you have to holler. If you shut up, you're guilty of laxity." Mr. Yasui is executive director of the Denver, Colorado, Commission on Community Relations.

HARUE NINOMIYA is a native of Portland, attending Jefferson High and Multnomah Junior College. She was 23 at the time she and her family were forced to leave the grocery store they'd bought two weeks before. They were interned at the Portland and Minidoka concentration camps. "It was an unforgettable period of confusion and uncertainty. Although I had hope for the future, we had to live a day at a time. You didn't know what was going to happen next." She is the mother of four children. She is a bookkeeper at Madison High.

DR. GEORGE S. HARA graduated with Washington High School's class of '42 in ceremonies held in the Portland Assembly Center Arena. He served in the Military Intelligence Language Service (MIS) in the Philippines and Japan. He attended medical school at the University of Oregon and has practiced obstetrics and gynecology in Portland since 1957. "We should admit to the errors of the past so that this thing can't come about again through military pressure or economic greed. It should be a part of Portland history."

JUDGE ROBERT THORNTON sits on the Oregon State Court of Appeals. He is a native of Portland. He served five years in the Army as a Japanese language interpreter. He was a national sponsor of the Japanese American Citizens League at a time when most Nikkei were interned in American concentration camps. After the war he was a friend-in-need to Portland's Nikkei community, supportive in the alien land law repeal and citizenship for the Issei.



DR. TOSHI KUGE was born in Astoria, Oregon, in 1919. He grew up in Oregon sawmill towns with his Issei parents. He was a sophomore in medical school when he was interned at the Portland and Tule Lake concentration camps. He worked in the camp hospitals. He volunteered for the 442nd RCT and won the Bronze Star with two oak clusters and, after the war, the Legion of Merit. He was the first commander of the Oregon Nisei Vets in 1946. He has been a general practitioner in Portland since 1952. "I feel this event is very important, for the Sansei and those that follow us to know what happened. The act of putting people in concentration camps should never happen again."

LAWSON FUSAO INADA is a third-generation Sansei poet, the first Japanese American to have a poetry volume published, Before the War: poems as they happened (1971). He spent his early years in concentration camps in California, Arkansas and Colorado. He is a professor of English at Southern Oregon State College. He is co-author of a new book of poems, The Buddha Bandits down Highway 99.

CO-CHAIRPERSONS OF THE "DAY OF REMEMBRANCE" STEERING COMMITTEE:

DR. JAMES TSUJIMURA was born in Westport, Oregon. He was ten years old when he was interned at the Portland and Minidoka concentration camps. He attended Benson High, Lewis and Clark, and the University of Oregon. He is a Portland ophthalmologist. He is the father of one boy and one girl. He serves as antional vice-president of the Japanese American Citizens League. "This event recalls a day that all Americans of Japanese ancestry lost their civil rights and became second-class citizens. This is a reminder that such a tragic thing did happen in the U.S. here in Portland, and hopefully will never happen again."

PEGGY NAGAE is a native of Boring, Oregon. She attended Oregon State and Vassar, and earned her J.D. degree from Lewis and Clark Law School. She is a lawyer at Multnomah County Legal Aid. She serveds on the Oregon State Bar committee on affirmative action. "Our objective is to share our experience and historic roots in the Portland community, and by sharing to insure that such experiences are never repeated in American history. The 'Day of Remembrance' is a day for all Americans."