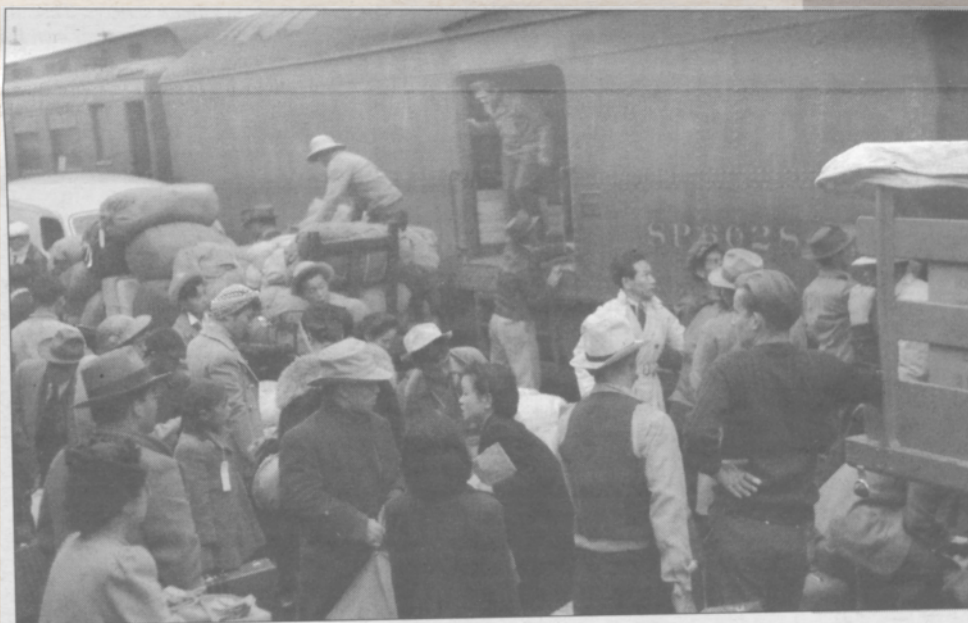


No Names Only Numbers

By Leo Rhodes

(One) issei
Great pride new start
Building of a new nation
Building of a new life
The excitement, the expectation
Anxiety builds on the voyage across the
Pacific Ocean
Life started, proprietor, Lumber Jack, Farmer,
Hard life, but a great life, missing home
Picture bride some comfort
Start a family, life hard but good.
Family started, many kids, and now grandchildren
Life is better
Loyalty, Trust, Bonding, Good times
Wiped out in one morning
December 7, 1941
An ocean away
The elders not knowing, but knowing something's
Coming, scared for their fate
Business leaders, community leaders, suit case packed, patiently
Waiting for FBI to pick them up
Families held accountable in the U.S.
Gathered up and herded like animals
In the Pacific International Livestock Exposition Pavilion
Or nicely put Portland Assembly Center
Frustration, Confusion, Chaos
Tags given no more family names, only numbers
Two suitcases per person
Not enough restrooms long lines, long waits
Lines too long, waits too long didn't make it
To bathroom
Feces, urine watch your step
Animal feces, animal urine underneath floorboards
Baking in sweltering heat
Walking outside, taking a break from chaos
And stench
Finding tree, coolness, solitude
Friend sees me, yells "hello."
Wave back only to realize, barb wire fence
Feeling like a freak
Self esteem is drawn out
Number is called, herded like cattle on trains
Watched by soldiers with guns in hand
"Am I a prisoner?"
"No we're here for your protection,"
A soldier replies
On train shutters drawn or boarded up windows
Tension high, very little said
Not knowing our fate
Soldiers everywhere

Reaching destination
We ask, "Why all the soldiers?"
They're here to protect you.
Thinking to ourselves then why are your guns pointed at us?
Barracks hastily put together
Families in one barrack
Family structure broken down
Troubled youth in one barrack
No privacy
Very little to do
Cook, Dishwasher and somebody to set up
And clean dining area
Youth sports baseball
Going stir crazy looking for something to do
Finding pieces of lumber, start making furniture
Finding seashells making jewelry
Starting a garden
Among captivity, confusion, chaos
Cherish moments
Birth of a baby, Japanese food from relatives
Outside of internment camp, birthday cake
From bakery outside of camp, wedding to
American-Japanese soldier (new twist on shot
gun wedding)
In the 80s the nisei pushed to right
What was wronged
Through their hardship and struggles
Some of the Nikkei found this re-opening of the past very
Difficult
While others found comfort



Japanese Americans board a train bound for one of 10 American concentration camps in 1942. This train was headed for Manzanar in California.

SOURCE: LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

Memorial rededicated as part of Nikkei celebration

The Japanese American Historical Plaza, with its solemn pillars and rolling landscape, is an award-winning monument to our past, a place of respite and remembrance, and a place to both acknowledge and educate. As part of the Oregon Nikkei Endowment 20th anniversary this year, ONE is hosting a rededication of the Japanese American Historical Plaza in Tom McCall Waterfront Park on Friday, July 30. The Plaza was originally dedicated in August 1990 to remember the hardships of Japanese immigrants during World War II and honor the bravery of the Japanese community. The poetry of Lawson Inada, among others — including Street Roots vendor Leo Rhodes — will be read as part of the ceremony. Beginning at 5 p.m. at the Plaza, the celebration will include special guests Justice Michael Gillette of the Oregon Supreme Court; Lawson Inada, Oregon Poet Laureate 2006-2010; the Minidoka Swing Band; Portland Taiko, and many others.

A special collaborative project between Portland poet and writer Kaia Sand, Sisters of the Road, Street Roots,

Transition Projects, Inc. and Oregon Nikkei Endowment will be part of this event.

The celebration then continues at the Bill Naito Legacy Fountain, just steps away from the Plaza, with a musical performance by The Slants. Crafts, food and beer will be on hand celebrate this award-winning landmark. Tickets can be purchased at www.oregonnikkei.org.

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Live Well with Hepatitis C

2010 Schedule

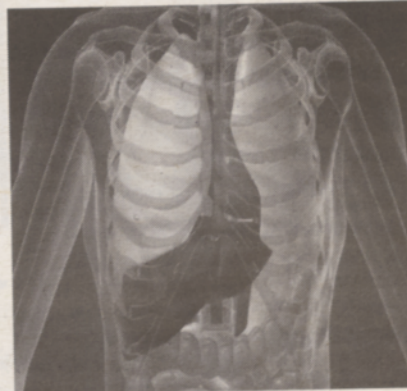
A one-time FREE class
for people living with Hepatitis C
& those who know them.

Wed. July 21
5:30 - 7:30 pm

Location:
Multnomah County Health Department
426 SW Stark St. 6th Floor
between 4th and 5th Ave. on Stark St.

No Registration required | Just show up!

Class is presented in English. Interpreter services available by request. For more info, call 503.988.3030.



Thanks to all of our fantastic volunteers who keep Street Roots pumping!