

Behind These Bars: An Activist is Born

Saturday, April 1: 1:00 – 3:00 pm PDT

In Person-Streamed-Live on YouTube

White Stag Building | UO Portland 70 NW Couch Street



“If we believe in America, if we believe in equal democracy, if we believe in law and justice—then, each of us, when we see or believe such errors are being made, has an obligation to make every effort to correct them.” - *Minoru Yasui*

REGISTER HERE

*This is a free event
but requires
registration.*

Program Highlights

- **The Man:** Reflections about Minoru Yasui | Dr. Homer Yasui, Honorary Chair of the MYLP, and Min’s brother
- **His Work:** Min’s cross-cultural work as community leader in Denver to address injustices and advocate for African Americans, Native Americans, Asian, Latinx, Jews, LGBTQ+ and all women | Dr. Robin Yasui
- **His Relevancy Today: Call to Action Across Generations**
 - **Jessica Asai**, a Yonsei, fourth generation Japanese American, was raised in Hood River, Oregon where her family has farmed for four generations. Since 2010, she has used her law degree to address civil rights compliance at Oregon Health & Science University where she conducts internal civil rights investigations and provides advice and training on civil rights, equity, and Title IX issues. She was the Minidoka Civil Liberties Symposium Speaker for 2020.
 - **Weston Koyama**, a Yonsei, fourth generation Japanese American, is currently working as a public defender in Portland, Oregon. His passion for this work is inspired by a desire to hold the state accountable, stemming from his ancestor’s unjust incarceration solely due to their ethnicity, during World War II. Weston advocates for marginalized communities and fights against systemic injustices in the criminal justice system.
 - **Anna Reutin**, is a second-year law student at the University of Oregon School of Law and two-time recipient of the Minoru Yasui Fellowship. Born and raised by a Japanese immigrant mother in Oregon, she is passionate about addressing issues regarding cultural competency and minority representation and is planning to pursue a legal career accordingly.
- **Behind These Bars:** Dedication of the jail cell where Min spent nine months in solitary confinement fighting for justice for all Americans. While these bars could not confine Min’s spirit, the arduous journey of the cell from the Multnomah County Courthouse to its permanent resting place at the Japanese American Museum of Oregon in Portland symbolizes Min’s life work and how the spirit of an extraordinary activist was strengthened rather than diminished by confinement. Min’s determination and faith in our Constitution will be illustrated by the reading of a few of his poems written “*Behind These Bars.*”

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