In honor of Asian Pacific Islander Heritage Month Diverse and Empowered Employees of Portland presents...



The internment of Japanese Americans in the United States was the forced relocation and incarceration during World War II of between 110,000 and 120,000 people of Japanese ancestry who lived on the Pacific coast in camps in the interior of the country. Sixty-two percent of the internees were United States citizens.

The Minidoka Swing Band is an all-volunteer tribute band that honors the spirit and strength of those who were illegally imprisoned as they struggled to keep their lives as positive and upbeat as possible during the harsh challenges of their incarceration. The Minidoka prisoners listened to music and held Saturday night dances to create a sense of normality in the midst of major loss and disruption.

In observance of the 70th anniversary of the end of WWII, the all-volunteer and not-for-profit Minidoka Swing Band will be performing in a concert tour across Japan during November 2015. They will be sharing an important part of Japanese American history through educational narration, pictures and music to interested schools and communities.

Based in Portland, Oregon, the Minidoka Swing Band educates and preserves an important period of Japanese American history by reaching out to groups and organizations interested in what the Japanese Americans endured during WWII.

Members will perform, as well as talk about their Japanese American internment memories, and will have CDs on hand and information about their upcoming trip to Japan!



Contact DEEP with questions at deep@portlandoregon.gov