



Banner

Winter
2018

1988 to 2018: 30 Years After the CLA

The Victory and the Unfinished Business

By Kay Ochi

California Attorney General Xavier Becerra and NCR founding member Alan Nishio have been invited to be the primary speakers at the Los Angeles Day of Remembrance (DOR) on Saturday, February 17, 2-4 PM, at the Japanese American National Museum.

This year's DOR marks the 30th anniversary of the signing of the Civil Liberties Act of 1988 (CLA), the legislation that provided the government's apology and monetary reparations to the survivors of the forced evacuation and mass incarceration of



Alan and Yvonne Nishio after the 1992 DOR Program. (Photo by Edna Horiuchi)

Japanese Americans during World War II. The theme of the program is "The Civil Liberties Act of 1988: The Victory and the Unfinished Business".

Both Becerra and Nishio have been asked to speak about the importance of the CLA, as well as what was not accomplished by this historic legislation. Becerra served as the Congressman from Los Angeles' 34th District from 1993 to 2017. During that time he sponsored legislation on behalf of Japanese Latin Americans who were denied equitable reparations. In 2017 as California's Attorney General, Becerra has filed 24 lawsuits challenging the Trump administration's violations of constitutional and civil liberties, most notably in support of the Dreamers and DACA.

Nishio, well-known for his many decades of community activism, served as the Southern California Co-Chair from 1980 through 1990, and provided notable leadership during the community's campaign for redress and reparations. He has also served on the Little Tokyo Service Center's Board of Directors since 1984, serving as its board president for 18 years. This community activism was done in addition to his career as an administrator at Cal State



Then-Congressman Xavier Becerra receives a commemorative poster in 2006 from DOR emcees, Junichi Semitsu and Alayne Yonemoto. (Photo by Kay Ochi)

University, Long Beach since 1972.

Once again, the DOR program will pay tribute to the Issei and Nisei generations, and, for the second year, will involve members of Boy Scout Troops from Koyasan and Venice Buddhist Churches in the Camp Flags ceremony.

A reception catered by Carrie Morita's Community Caterers follows the program. The DOR organizing committee includes NCR, the JAACL/PSW, Progressive Asian Network for Action/PANA, Nikkei Progressives, the Manzanar Committee, the JANM, the Go for Broke National Education Center and the Organization of Chinese Americans/Greater Los Angeles.

By Richard Katsuda

Waiting for Our Story of NCR

Well, it's been over five years in the making, but our NCR book on the grassroots struggle for redress and reparations is just about there. The editorial team of Lane Hirabayashi, Janice Yen, Kay Ochi, Kathy Masaoka, Suzy Katsuda, and Richard Katsuda have been working very hard to make the story engaging and

inspiring. We've gone through various conceptions and formulas to make the book appealing to college students as well as the general community.

Qris Yamashita is our designer, and she has been working feverishly to get the book to look inviting and pleasing to the eye. We've circulated mock-ups of parts

of the book at NCR General Meetings and everyone seems very pleased and excited. They can hardly wait to see the final product!

Susie Ling, a supporter of NCR from the beginning, has volunteered to do the indexing for the book. Susie commented, "I can't believe it has been 37 years

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1981 “SPEAK OUT” CRWIC Testimonies

Now Available for Sale

Historic LA Hearings Reissued on Menu-Driven DVDs

By Janice Yen

In 1981 the Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians (CWRIC) held hearings in several cities in the United States. Los Angeles was one of the first sites after Washington, DC, and was the only hearing that we know of videotaped by community-based grassroots organizations. Visual Communications and NCRP worked out a plan to film the entire three-day and one evening session. NCRP



Participants in the December 2, 2017 program. Back row: Duane Kubo, Mark Masaoka, Alan Nishio, Mike Murase, Gerald Sato, Jim Matsuoka, Phil Shigekuni. Front row: Evelyn Yoshimura, Kathy Masaoka, Naomi Hirahara, Peter Ota, Harry Kawahara, Sumi Seki. (Photo by Kay Ochi)

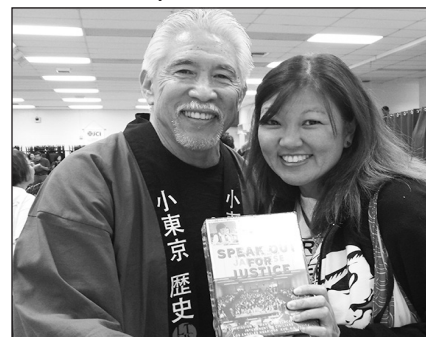
financed the purchase of the blank tapes and Visual Communications’ filmmakers worked in shifts to cover the testimonies.

On December 2, 2017, NCRP and Visual Communications, in partnership with the Japanese American National Museum, held an afternoon program to reissue the 13-DVD discs and a new compilation disc containing representative testimonies from the set.

Moderated by Naomi Hirahara, two testifiers from the 1981 hearings, Harry Kawahara and Sumi Seki, were asked to give their impressions about the hearings. Harry recalled how he helped recruit testifiers for the JACL in 1981, and Sumi vividly remembered her family’s forced evacuation in 1942. Jim Matsuoka, who helped coordinate NCRP’s testifiers, and Duane Kubo, who coordinated the production crew from Visual Communications, added their insights into their organizations’ approach to the hearings. Evelyn Yoshimura, who was sitting in the

audience, remembered her anger upon seeing an elderly Caucasian woman rip papers from testifier Jim Kawaminami’s hands as he read his statement into the microphone. The audience at the hearing spontaneously yelled “get her out,” as the woman was spirited out of the room by security guards. July Lee of the PULL Project began the program with a dramatic reading. Interspersed throughout the program were video clips from the hearings edited by Steve Nagano.

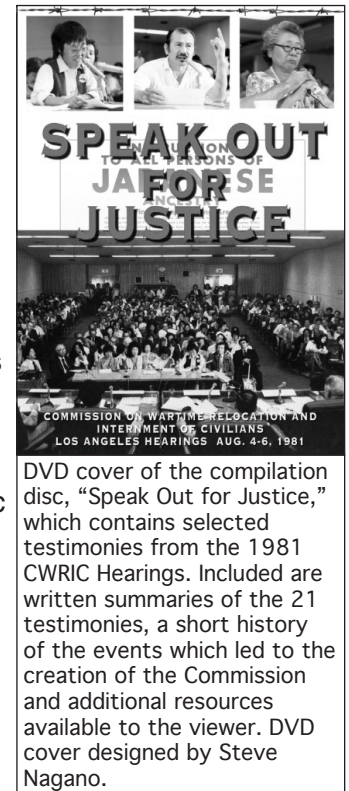
On October 14, 2017 the Education Committee previewed the reissued “Speak Out” DVDs at the Little Tokyo Historical Society’s screening of “Rebel With a Cause, the Life of Aiko Herzig Yoshinaga,” at the Gardena Valley Cultural Institute. Sales were brisk and interest was high as the committee answered questions from the audience. Many of the



Steve Nagano at Gardena program announcing the Speak Out DVD sets, pictured with Stacey Hayashi of Hawaii who purchased the full set. (Photo by Kathy Masaoka)

younger audience members had never heard about the Commission nor the participation of their “quiet” Nisei and Issei relatives at this very important federal hearing.

The compilation DVD which contains 180 minutes of “best of” testimonies is available for sale for \$25 (\$20 for NCRP and VC members) and the two-box DVD containing 153 testimonies are available for sale for \$250 to the community and \$500 for institutions. Shipping and handling is \$7.50 per set or for the single DVD. Checks should be made out



DVD cover of the compilation disc, “Speak Out for Justice,” which contains selected testimonies from the 1981 CWRIC Hearings. Included are written summaries of the 21 testimonies, a short history of the events which led to the creation of the Commission and additional resources available to the viewer. DVD cover designed by Steve Nagano.

Nikkei Progressives and Vigilant Love Updates

By Kathy Masaoka

Nikkei Progressives Lays Groundwork in 2017 and Plans for 2018

Nikkei Progressives (NP) and NCRP met together last year to share goals and principles with the goal of working more closely together and with the hope that NP can carry on the legacy and lessons learned from redress and NCRP's principles of unity. The younger members of NP expressed a desire to continue to learn from NCRP and plan to set up educational salons where long time NCRP members can



June Hibino and Carrie Morita of NP with Shakeel Syed, protesting the Muslim Ban at the LA Airport. (Photo courtesy of Carrie Morita)

discussions and be very timely since 2018 is the 30th anniversary of the passage of the Civil Liberties Act.

Plans for 2018 include continuing the solidarity work that has been important in the history of NCRP. That work includes fighting Islamophobia and supporting immigrants by working with groups like Vigilant Love and Uplift and Korean Resource Center which are able to keep us informed of policy and calls for action. Last year, NP played a major role in Vigilant Love's Listening Sessions and will continue to participate in the upcoming sessions as facilitators/scribes. We are hoping to do more outreach around Know Your Rights in the community and are working on a position on immigration.

Each NP general meeting begins with some educational topic. We have shared the work of the 9/11 Committee, had presentations on immigration and Vigilant Love. At the last meeting several younger members shared more about the use and reasons for gender pronouns since

many of the older members were not familiar or comfortable with stating gender preferences.

Since many of us are involved in Little Tokyo and other issues directly affecting the Japanese American community, we plan to include those topics, such as Keiro and 800 Traction, during our education portion. To help us work better as an intergenerational group, some of the younger people will be sharing their tech skills with the older members at each meeting and at special workshops. NP is also working directly with other NCRP members on the Day of Remembrance Committee and has been part of planning the Summer Activist Training program which NCRP can no longer work on.

The meetings are every other month on the second Wednesday (January 10, March 14, May 9, July 11, September 12 and November 14). For more information, please email Nikkeiprogressives@gmail.com.

NP also appreciates the financial support from NCRP and from the API Giving which provided \$3000 grant for possible intern and supplies.

Vigilant Love Coalition Monitors Policies and Conducts Workshops

This past year Vigilant Love (VL) received funding from the California Immigrant Rights Coalition

to conduct workshops utilizing interactive and creative practices to share information about the surveillance programs that threaten the safety of the Muslim community and those impacted by Islamophobia. One program, called CVE (Countering Violent Extremism) and run by the Department of Homeland Security, is especially troublesome since the City of Los Angeles is distributing funds from CVE under different



Vigilant Love Steering Committee members (R-L) Kathy Masaoka, traci kato kiriyama, Traci Ishigo and Sahar Pirzada read a group poem at the Manzanar Pilgrimage. (Photo by Daren Mooko)

program names. VL has joined with other civil rights and legal organizations to oppose this program. In the workshops, VL updates people about CVE and provides an opportunity for the participants to share the impact of Islamophobia in their lives.

Poetry is an important component of VL's work and workshops often end with writing haiku or poetry to unify the group. VL committee members, Sahar Pirzada, Traci Ishigo, traci kato kiriyama and Kathy Masaoka, presented a group poem (curated and crafted by tkk) at Manzanar, at the Japanese American National Museum as part of the EO 9066 exhibit and at a march in support of Muslims and immigrant rights.

Other funding has helped VL provide safety workshops (monitors at demonstrations etc.) at



Vigilant Love members read a poem at Grand Performances program moderated by Karen Ishizuka (third from left). Films by Tani Ikeda (second from left) and Tad Nakamura were also shown. (Photo courtesy of Kathy Masaoka)

Occidental College and considers the safety of people at a march to be extremely important. There is now a group of people who have been trained but more people do need to be trained. As an organization, VL is still growing and getting support from the Social Ventures Partners to increase its effectiveness with clearer messaging, a stronger structure and more resources.

This year VL looks forward to another Break the Fast dinner during Ramadan and the relaunch of the Bridging Communities program. For more information: www.vigilantlove.org or email info@vigilantlove.org.

since that Cal State LA Conference! I remember many of us were very unsure what would lie ahead...I was definitely a doubter. The book needed to be written. Congrats to NCRR for their stick-to-it-tiveness."

So, as the editorial team puts the final touches to the book, we're hopeful that the book will effectively shine light on what inspired NCRR members to form and sustain our work for all these years.

More NCRR in 2017



Koreisha marches to Keiro offices to demand that the group use the \$70 million from the sale of the senior facilities to buy another facility. Leona Hiraoka, Executive Director (center) responds to the group at a rally moderated by David Monkawa (right). (Photo by Kathy Masaoka)



Artists at 800 Traction speak at rally about the history of the building and the importance of keeping artists in the Arts District. Many of them are Japanese Americans who have contributed their skills to projects in Little Tokyo. (Photo by Kathy Masaoka)

PULLproject Update

By *traci kato-kiriyama*

In February 2017, PULLproject Ensemble (made up of Kennedy Kabasares and traci kato-kiriyama, with close partner composer/sound designer, Howard Ho and artistic consultants, Nancy Keystone, Dan Kwong and Eric Newton) held a staged reading of Tales of Clamor at Kinetic Theory Circus Arts. This was their second workshop reading for the public and the first full draft, which helped them immensely to see what changes they want to make moving forward toward its next version. The fantastic workshop cast included Greg Watanabe, Jeanne Sakata, Jully Lee, Kurt Kuniyoshi and Takayo Fischer. The audience was an eclectic one, from young activists, theatre artists, and members of the Muslim community to those who were part of the Redress movement to the circus community and those who knew little or nothing about Redress and Japanese American incarceration. The response was great, emotional and insightful, and helped a great deal with what is to come next with the characters, core narrative and overall theatrical approach.

In June, the Network of Ensemble Theaters (NET) invited Kennedy, traci and Kathy Masaoka to Seattle to present about Tales of Clamor and the partnership behind the project. They were able to show a short 6-minute video about the project, which has been twice-awarded by NET.

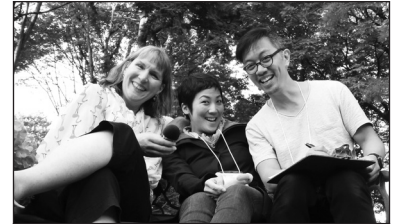
Since the summer, Kennedy and traci have been

in talks with a producer and they are looking forward to their world premiere of Tales of Clamor in January of 2019. As the details are still being ironed out, they look forward to being able to make an official announcement in the spring of 2018.

What's next?

Principal writer, traci kato-kiriyama, feels they are two intensive workshop periods away from being ready for premiere, and they look forward to getting back into rewrites as well as filling out the rest of their team. Principal circus artist, Kennedy Kabasares, also looks forward to developing more of his movement work for each of the aerial apparatuses featured in the show. Together, they are excited to keep building this piece for the community and they are as grateful to look ahead to a production that will feature NCRR and community organizing efforts throughout the run of the show in the winter of 2019.

NCRR will be the first to know when we can officially announce the venue for the world premiere, as well as any public engagement opportunities throughout the final development period in 2018.



traci kato-kiriyama (center) and Kennedy Kabasares (right) being interviewed at the NET Conference in Seattle, WA. (Photo by Kathy Masaoka)



Are You a Member? NCRR Needs You to Renew! Not a Member? Join Now!

NCRR is a not-for-profit organization that operates solely on grants and contributions from individuals like you. In order to keep up the fight for civil rights and justice, we need you to join or renew today.

NCRR Membership Levels (tax deductible)

- \$30 One year
- \$15 Students, seniors and low-income one year
- \$500 Lifetime membership

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Tuna Canyon Detention Station Exhibit Continues Travels

By Kanji Sahara

The Tuna Canyon Detention Station Coalition will publish a small book. It will contain the material that was in their traveling exhibit. There were 36 display panels in the traveling exhibit. Each display panel will take up about two pages of the book. The book is soft cover and 8.5 x 8.5 each in size. It is the kind of book that often accompanies an exhibit at an art museum.

The traveling exhibit is currently at the Oregon Nikkei Legacy Center in Portland. In February 2018, it will come to the Santa Barbara History Museum. The Nikkei musical ensemble, Grateful Crane is negotiating with the Museum to present a performance of "Only the Oaks Remain" which is a powerful play about the Tuna Canyon Detention Station.



Aerial view of the Tuna Canyon Detention Center (photo courtesy of Merrill Scott Family)

Speak Out DVDs, continued

to NCRR and sent to 231 E. Third Street, G-104, Los Angeles, CA 90013. Unfortunately there is no online credit card ordering system available at this time. More information about the testimonies can be obtained by contacting NCRR at ncrrla@yahoo.com or on NCRR's website, www.ncrr-la.org.

The Speak Out project was made possible in part by grants from the National Park Services Japanese American Confinement Sites program and from the California Civil Liberties Public Education Program.

Nikkei for Civil Rights & Redress

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DOR 2018: February 17, 2018

"The Civil Liberties Act of 1988:

***The Victory and the Unfinished Business*"**

Details Inside!